

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3643

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (STEVENSON, ADLAI E.) SA, US

SUOJECT: COMMENTS OF PRINCE SAUD ON SENATOR STEVENSON'S VISIT

REF STATE 28668, JIDDA 0885

1. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED VISIT OF CODEL FEB 9 WITH
FONMINISTER PRINCE SAUD AL FAISAL. AMBASSADOR ASKED
THAT PRINCE TAKE A HAND IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS FOR
CODEL AS REQUESTED BY EMBASSY NOTES TO FOREIGN OFFICE.
IN ENSUING DISCUSSION, PRINCE AGREED TO SEE TO
SCHEDULING MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD FOR SATURDAY,
FEB 14. HE ALSO THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR CODEL
TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF PETROLEUM YAMANI, MINISTER OF
FINANCE ABA AL-KHAYL, AND MINISTEH OF COMMERCE SOLAIM.
HE WOULD FOLLOW UP HIMSELF ON THESE APPOINTMENTS.
HE THOUGHT ABOVE MEETINGS WOULD GIVE CODEL AN
AUTHORITATIVE VIEW OF SAG THINKING ON AREAS OF
CODEL'S INTEREST.

2. SAUD SAID HE REGRETTED HE WOULD NOT BE IN SAUDI
ARABIA DURING CODEL'S VISIT.

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3. SAUD WENT ON TO SAY SAG WAS GRATEFUL SENATOR WOULD

COME THIS DISTANCE TO BECOME PERSONALLY BETTER INFORMED ABOUT ECONOMICS AND POLITICS OF THE AREA. HE HOPED THAT WHILE SENATOR IN SAUDI ARABIA HE COULD DISCUSS -- AMONG OTHER ISSUES -- TENSIONS THAT APPEAR TO BE DEVELOPING BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND SAUDI ARABIA ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. HE SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S MASSIVE FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN ASSUMED CONSIDERABLE PARTICIPATION BY US INDIVIDUALS AND FIRMS, AND SAUDI ACCESS TO US MARKETS. HE INQUIRED ABOUT BECHTEL AND WONDERED WHY THAT COMPANY WAS SELECTED AS OBJECT OF LEGAL ACTION. HE FEARED THAT IF ANY IMPORTANT US COMPANY WITHDRAWS FROM SAUDI ARABIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IT WOULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT ON OTHERS. SAG RECOGNIZED ALTERNATIVES WOULD NOT BE AS SATISFACTORY, BUT SAUD EMPHASIZED THAT BECAUSE SAUDI ARABIA'S BOYCOTT POLICY IS POLITICAL IN NATURE CHANGE IS UNLIKELY. HE EMPHASIZED POLITICAL NATURE OF BOYCOTT, SAYING IT NOT BASED AT ALL ON PREJUDICE OR RELIGIOUS FACTORS. HE SAID US NOVEMBER REGULATIONS WERE PROMULGATED BY JUSTICE DEPT WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSULTATION OR CONSIDERATION OF EFFECT ON OTHERS, INDICATING HIS GOVERNMENT PUZZLED BY THIS MANNER OF PROCEEDING. HE ASKED ME TO TELL DEPT HE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CURRENT VIEWS OF PROSPECTS.

4. SAUD SAID HE HAD HOPED TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH SENATOR, BUT HE BELIEVED THAT THE CROWN PRINCE AND VARIOUS MINISTERS WOULD VALUE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ABOUT THEM.

5. ON FEBRUARY 8 DCM MET WITH ROYAL DIWAN (PALACE'S BUSINESS OFFICE) TO REVIEW CODEL'S PROGRAM. DIWAN STATED THEY WERE WORKING ON MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE AND WOULD LET EMBASSY KNOW. FONMIN HAS ALREADY INFORMED EMBASSY THE MINCOMMERCE SULAIM WILL BE PLEASED TO MEET SENATOR.
PORTER

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